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United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

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RELEASED IN FULL

September 9, 1994

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MEMORANDUM

TO: AF - Mr. Moose  
THROUGH: AF - Ms. Brown RB  
FROM: AF/EPS - David Pierce  
SUBJECT: Constituting a "Friends of Rwanda/Burundi" Group

Background

The "Friends of Haiti" was set up with the UN Secretary General as the focal point -- basically the "Friends of the Secretary General" -- to take the lead in international efforts (principally in the UN) to try to resolve the crisis there. For example, the Group was instrumental in securing passage of the most recent UN Resolution on Haiti. New York was a logical locale for the organization to keep the focus on the UN.

There are two "Friends of Bosnia" groups. One is a grass-roots organization composed of individuals who resigned from the State Department on policy grounds because they disagreed with our stance on the Bosnia crisis. The other was formed by the Hungarian CSCE delegation and composed of CSCE members to continue discussions on how CSCE can be more effective in the former Yugoslavia.

IBRD should form the "Friends of Rwanda/Burundi"

Given the foreign assistance theme of the "Friends of Rwanda/Burundi", the President of the World Bank would be a more logical choice to convene the group than the Secretary General of the UN. While it is not necessary for the head of the group to be from a multilateral organization, there are obvious advantages to avoiding the appearance that the "Friends" Group exists only as a US creation.

Rwanda's arrearages to the IBRD should not be an overriding concern. It would not be logical to criticize the IBRD's chairmanship of the Group solely as a means of securing payment of the arrearages. \$1.9 million is not a big enough sum.

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The IBRD is identified with development, the objective of the "Friends" effort particularly given the destruction suffered by the country of Rwanda. Burundi has not seen the same loss of infrastructure but the close connection of the two countries in the public's eye argues for including both countries in the same organization. If a need were to arise for further efforts of the Group in Burundi, the Group would already be constituted.

Under this scenario, President Lewis Preston of the World Bank would call the group together and make appropriate public announcements from the Washington headquarters. Washington would be the logical site for the meetings and announcements. We would utilize the assistance of our Executive Director, Jan Piercy, in presenting the proposal to President Preston.

Alternatives

Alternative conveners would include ourselves, the French, and NGOs such as AFRICARES and the Red Cross. We are already very closely identified with Rwandan efforts, and the French would likewise bring nationalist baggage to such a movement. Prominent international NGOs would generate interest but probably not with as high a profile and with as much international confidence as the IBRD.

(Note: This memo was cleared within AF only.)

Drafted: AF/EPS:JFelt, SEEPSA 6104, 9/8/94  
Clearance: AF/C:RFendrick/KAiston

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